

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (cancelled)

2. **(currently amended)** A disposable undergarment, comprising:

a liquid-pervious topsheet, a liquid-impervious backsheet and a liquid-absorbent core disposed between the topsheet and backsheet;

a front waist region, a rear waist region and a crotch region extending longitudinally of said undergarment between the front and rear waist regions, said crotch region having transversely opposite side edges curving inward transversely of said undergarment to define peripheral edges of leg-openings of said undergarment;

said core including a front end zone, a rear end zone, and a middle zone extending longitudinally of said undergarment between the front and rear end zones, said middle zone being completely located in said crotch region, said front end zone extending from said middle zone toward said front waist region, and said rear end zone extending from said middle zone toward said rear waist region;

a first elastic member extending transversely of said undergarment, along a front end portion of one of said transversely opposite side edges of said crotch region, across said front end zone of said core, and along a front end portion of the other of said transversely opposite side edges of said crotch region;

a second elastic member extending transversely of said undergarment, along a rear end portion of one of said transversely opposite side edges of said crotch region, across said rear end zone of said core, and along a rear end portion of the other of said transversely opposite side edges of said crotch region;

the front end portions of said transversely opposite side edges of said crotch region being closer to the front waist region than the rear end portions of said transversely opposite side edges of said crotch region;

~~The undergarment according to claim 1,~~ wherein a stiffness of said core is lower in the front and rear end zones than in the middle zone.

3. **(currently amended)** The undergarment according to claim 1 2, further comprising ~~wherein between said first middle portion of said first elastic member and said second middle~~

~~portion of said second elastic member, third elastic members are attached under tension to said undergarment so as to extend in the longitudinal direction~~ each extending longitudinally of said undergarment, between said first and second elastic members, and along one of said transversely opposite side edges of said crotch region portions.

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Crotch
4. (new) The undergarment according to claim 2, wherein said first elastic member has a central portion underlying said front end zone of said core and being attached under tension to said backsheet.

5. (new) The undergarment according to claim 2, wherein said second elastic member has a central portion underlying said rear end zone of said core and being attached under tension to said backsheet.

6. (new) The undergarment according to claim 3, wherein each of the third elastic members extends between, without contacting or crossing, the first and second elastic members.

7. (new) The undergarment according to claim 3, wherein an entire area of said topsheet is smaller than that of said backsheet.

8. (new) The undergarment according to claim 2, wherein said first and second elastic members are not directly attached to the topsheet.

9. (new) The undergarment according to claim 3, wherein said crotch region has an area extending transversely of said undergarment from one of the transversely opposite side edges to the other of the transversely opposite side edges, said area being free of said first, second, and third elastic members.

10. (new) The undergarment according to claim 3, wherein said backsheet has at least two material layers including an upper layer and a lower layer, said first and second elastic members are sandwiched between said upper and lower layers, and said third elastic members are sandwiched between said upper layer and said topsheet.

11. **(new)** The undergarment according to claim 2, wherein the first and second elastic members are spaced apart in a longitudinal direction of said undergarment without contacting or crossing each other.

Added
12. **(new)** The undergarment according to claim 11, wherein a closest distance between said first and second elastic members as measured in said longitudinal direction is greater than a half of an entire extent of said core as measured in said longitudinal direction.

13. **(new)** The undergarment according to claim 2, wherein a density of said core is lower in the front and rear end zones than in the middle zone.

14. **(new)** The undergarment according to claim 2, wherein a basic weight of said core is lower in the front and rear end zones than in the middle zone, said core having a substantially uniform thickness.

15. **(new)** The undergarment according to claim 4, wherein said first elastic member further has end portions on opposite sides of said central portion, each of the end portions of said first elastic member extending along the front end portion of one of said transversely opposite side edges of said crotch region, a tensile stress of said first elastic member being greater in the end portions than in the central portion.

16. **(new)** The undergarment according to claim 5, wherein said second elastic member further has end portions on opposite sides of said central portion, each of the end portions of said second elastic member extending along the rear end portion of one of said transversely opposite side edges of said crotch region, a tensile stress of said second elastic member being greater in the end portions than in the central portion.

17. **(new)** The undergarment according to claim 2, wherein each of said first and second elastic members includes

a central portion underlying the respective one of said front and rear end zones of said core

and being attached under tension to said backsheet; and

end portions on opposite sides of said central portion, each of the end portions extending along the respective one of said front and rear end portions of one of said transversely opposite side edges of said crotch region, wherein a tensile stress of the end portions is greater than that of the central portion.
